

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4650

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1199

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, OAS, AC, PN, PA

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S VISIT TO PARAGUAY

1. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S TIGHT SCHEDULE FORCED HIM TO VISIT PARAGUAY DURING THE LATTER PART OF HOLY WEEK WHEN ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES WERE CLOSED, THERE WAS GREAT GOP INTEREST IN HIS VISIT. FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR EVEN CAME TO RESIDENCE ON GOOD FRIDAY TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND MYSELF. FONMIN CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR BENNETT THAT LA CAUCUS AT UN HAD BEEN THROWN INTO DISARRAY BY PANAMANIAN REP BOYD'S LAST-MINUTE DRIVE TO GET SC SEAT FOR PANAMA. BOYD IN MELDROMATIC TERMS HAS DESCRIBED PANAMA'S NATIONAL EXISTENCE AS BEING AT STAKE AND NORMAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST THEREFORE BE SET ASIDE IN ORDER PERMIT PANAMA RESUME HER CAMPAIGN RE PANCANAL IN SC. SAPENA PASTOR SAID HE HAD RENEWED HIS COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT TO ARGENTINA AND HE SAID SARCASTICALLY THAT HE HAD TOLD ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HE WOULD HAVE PARAGUAYAS SUPPORT NOT ONLY ON FIRST CAUCUS VOTE BUT ON SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH AND AS MANY MORE AS NECESSARY. HOWEVER, HE FORESAW POSSIBILITY THAT IN EVENT PANAMANIAN CAMPAIGN

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IN LA CAUCUS DID NOT SUCEED, PANAMA MIGHT GO INTO GA

IN EFFORT TO OVERTURN CAUCUS DECISION. THIS WOULD BE
SERIOUS BLOW LA REGIONAL UNITY AT UN.

2. ALTHOUGH SUPPORTING ARGENTINA FOR SC SEAT, SAPENA
PASTOR SHOWED DISDAIN FOR ORTIZ DE ROSAS' CAMPAIGN FOR
UNSYG. IN ANOTHER OBSERVATION HE COMMENTED DEPRECATINGLY
ON INTENSE DESIRE OF ARGENTINA, WITH ITS TURBULENT
NATIONAL SITUATION, TO BE ELCTED TO HIGH VISIBILITY
UN POSTS AS COMPARED WITH BRAZIL'S PREFERENCE FOR LOW-
KEY ROLE WHILE EXERTING STRONG INFLUENCE BEHIND THE
SCENES (AS INDEED BRAZIL DID AT LIMA CONFERENCE).

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH FONMIN AND UNDERSECRETARY
NOGUES, PARAGUAYAN
OFFICIALS INDICATED LIVELY INTEREST
IN RESULTS OF UNIDO II AND IN PERUVIAN INTERNAL SITUATION.
BENNETT GAVE EXPLANATION OF OUR NEGATIVE VOTE ON LIMA
DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION. WHEN SAPENA PASTOR AND
NOGUES SPOKE CONTMPTIOUSLY OF GROUP OF 77 DEMAGOGIC
SOLUTIONS, BENNETT SAID IT WAS TOO BAD THAT LATIN AMERICAN
STATES SUCH AS PARAGUAY, ALONG WITH MODERATE STATES FROM
OTHER AREAS, LET THEMSELVES BE CARRIED ALONG ON GROUNDS
OF SOLIDARITY BY MILITANTS INTO VOTING FOR EXTREME
POSITIONS AND RADICAL PHILOSOPHIES OBVIOUSLY NOT IN
THEIR OWN INTEREST. BENNETT RECALLED HOWEVER THAT
PARAGUAYAN DELEGATION ABSENT DURING FINAL VOTE.
NOGUES LATER HINTED TO ME THAT ABSENCE DELIBERATE.

4. NOGUES ASKED WHY US HAD OPPOSED LIMA RESOLUTION
ON HELP FOR LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND STATES. BENNETT
EXPLAINED THAT END RESULT OF RESOLUTION WOULD BE TO
DIMINISH AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO LAND-LOCKED
BY PROVIDING ACCESS FOR OTHERS SUCH AS WELL-OFF ISLAND
STATES TO THE SAME LIMITED FUND. NOGUES HAD NOT THOUGHT
OF IT THIS WAY, AND BENNETT SAID HE HAD SPOKEN IN SIMILAR
VIEN TO AFGHAN AT LIMA.

5. SAPENA PASTOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION ON CLOSE RE-
LATIONS BETWEEN PARAGUAYAN MISSION AND USUN IN NEW YORK,
AND SAID HE WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING USDEL
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AT 30TH GA.

6. COMMENT: AS IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH ME, SAPENA
PASTOR AGAIN SHOWED HIS INCREASING IRRITATION WITH ARGENTINA
AND PARTICULARLY WITH FONMIN VIGNES. SAPENA CLEARLY IS
INCENSED OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERS ARGENTINE DOUBLECROSS IN
BACKING HIM FOR THE OAS SYG AT FIRST VOTE ONLY WHILE, AT
SAME TIME, PUSHING ORFILA'S CANDIDACY FOR SUBSEQUENT

BALLOTS. END COMMENT.

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